THE COMMONWEALTH Afternoon Daily

W. H. LINDSEY, Editor. The Commonwealth, Inc. Scotland Neck Bank Bldg. Scotland Neck, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scotland Neck, N. C., as secondclass matter under Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Advance) Through the Mail Daily Issue

One Year ---- \$3.00 Six Months _____ 1.50 Three Months75 By Carrier _____10c per week

All articles submitted for publication must bear the author's name, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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Friday,—July 16, 1920

PLAYING POLITICS WITH WOMAN SUFFRACE

"Here is the spectacle presented in Tennessee-a Governor calling himself a Democrat agrees to summon a special session of the Legislature for the express and deliberate purpose of violating a provision of the Constitution of Tennessee, and that without the shadow of an excuse except suppoesed political expediency.

"Governor Roberts has presumably taken an oath to support and obey the Constitution of Tennessee. Yet he deliberately sets out to violate that Constitution, although there is no emergency nor even a decent excuse for doing so

"It may be true that if the Tennessee Governor and the Tennessee Legislature do violate their own Constitution, that fact would not invalidate their action in rati fying a Federal amendment, but that in no way excuses them, especially as they are under no possible legal or moral/obligation to act, What does an oath amount to among politicians?

"But while Governor Roberts is willing enough to make the Constitution of his State a scrap of paper and to force woman suffrage on other States, he is not willing, according to reports, to risk his own political fortunes to the women. He expects to be renominated in the primaries, and will take no chances with the women. Therefore, it is said, he will not call the extara session in time for them to vote in the Gubernatorial primaries. What ought the women do to him in November?"

-Baltimore Evening Sun-

We agree with the Evening Sun of Baltimore in its comment upon the unwisdom of the action of the Governor of Tennessee, but it must be remembered that Pres ident Wilson brought all the power of his official position and his leadership of the Democratic party to bear upon Governor Roberts to make him do what the Baltimore Evening Sun, one of the strongest upholders of the President in the country, so buterly denounces. It is a lamentable fact that both parties are playing politics in the woman suf-

frage question, for a large part of the work that is now being done on that issue is not done on the basis of right or wrong, but on the basis of will it help this party or that party. In the South, to a far greater extent than elsewhere the woman suffrage will be forced upon the States, as it seems likely to be done, will once more raise the race issue and make more difficult the settlement of a problem which has been gradually finding solution.

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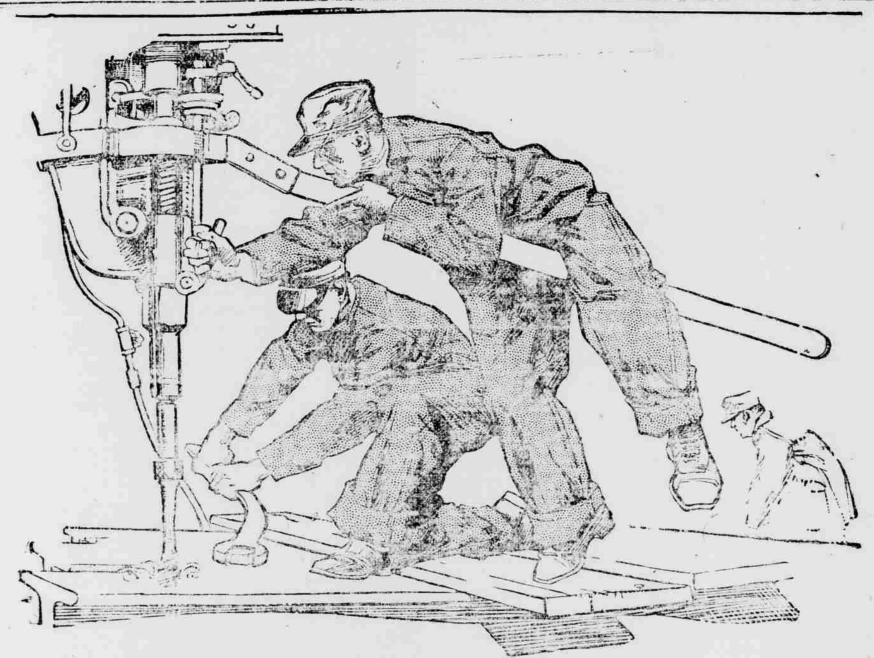
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en this notice will be Having qualified as . Executor bar of their recovery

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